



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/754,061	01/09/2004	Masahiro Hinami	27877.77	7687
<div>54064 7590 07/20/2007</div> <div>KABUSHIKI KAISHA SEGA C/O KEATING & BENNETT, LLP 8180 GREENSBORO DRIVE SUITE 850 MCLEAN, VA 22102</div>				
			<div>EXAMINER</div> <div>OMOTOSHO, EMMANUEL</div>	
			<div>ART UNIT</div> <div>3714</div>	<div>PAPER NUMBER</div>
			<div>NOTIFICATION DATE</div> <div>07/20/2007</div>	<div>DELIVERY MODE</div> <div>ELECTRONIC</div>

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

JKEATING@KBIPLAW.COM
uspto@kbiplaw.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/754,061

Applicant(s)

HINAMI ET AL.

Examiner

Emmanuel Omotosho

Art Unit

3714

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-10 and 22-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-10, 22-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Request for Continued Examination

1. This office action is in response to the request for continued examination filed on May 17 2007 in which applicant amends claims 7,22 and 30, and responds to the claim rejections. Claims 7-10 and 22-30 are pending.
2. The amendment to claim 23 has overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph lack of antecedent basis in the claims. The rejection to claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph lack of antecedent basis in the claims has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Art Unit: 3714

5. Claims 7-10,22-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aoshima et al (US 6,241,524) and further in view of Tohyama et al. US Patent 5,351,966.

6. Regarding at least claim 7, Aoshima teaches, a game device for proceeding a game by placing objects related to the game in a three-dimensional virtual space and by controlling said objects, comprising:

- a. first game proceeding means for proceeding the game by controlling (Col 5:32- 52) said objects in first game field in said three-dimensional virtual space (Figures 5, 9 & Col 7:38-8:2);
- b. second game proceeding means for proceeding the game by controlling (Col 5:36-52 & Col 5:11-18) said objects in a second game field said three-dimensional virtual space (Figures 5, 9 & Col 7:38-8:2);
- c. a cursor in said game field (Figure 1 "cross hairs", Figure 9 Elm 80);
- d. cursor object forming means for forming a cursor object indicating a certain area of one of said first and second game fields as well as an area of the other game field corresponding to the certain area (Figure 3, & Elm 500,510). In regards to applicant's argument that Elm 500,510 does not indicate an area, the exact of Elm 500,510 are the indicated area;
- e. perspective transformation display means for forming screen picture by transforming the coordinates of each object in said first and second game fields

existing within view of a viewpoint located in said three-dimensional virtual space (Figures 1,5,Col 7:62-8:5).

7. Regarding at least claim 22, Aoshima teaches, a game image processing method in a game device, wherein operation signals are collected from operating means operated by a player by using a CPU block's execution of an application software stored in memory, wherein on the basis of the operation signal, a process is conducted to proceed a game in a three-dimensional virtual space (Abstract & Figure 1) including at least first and second game fields that are stacked in layers (Figure 3 wherein field 66 is parallel to fields 76 and 78), drawing control information that forms game images, is outputted to a video block; wherein the video block conducts a drawing processing of game images on the basis of the drawing control information, and wherein the game images are outputted to displaying means (Figure 4), wherein said first and second game fields are divided into the first area and the second area such that each of the first area and the second area displays one unit of the objects, each of which is placed and moves in the first and second game fields; and wherein said application software includes a first game program that proceeds the game in the first game field and a second game program that proceeds the game in the second game field (Figure 2, 9 demonstrate diverse player locations in a multi tier field), comprising:

- f. a step of, by the CPU block's execution of the application software controlling the position of a first object in accordance with the first game program,

Art Unit: 3714

placing it in the relevant first area in the first game field, and thereby controlling the proceeding of the first game;

g. a step of, by using the CPU blocks execution of the application software, controlling the position of a second object in accordance with the second game program, placing it in the relevant second area in the second game field, and thereby controlling the proceeding of the second game (equivalent to the individual player tanks as realized in figure 2 and 9);

h. a step of displaying a cursor that points to one unit of the first area in the first game field (Figure 1 crosshair, Figure 9 crosshair Elm 80) on the basis of the operation signal, and choosing the first object placed in the first area (equivalent to targeting and/or firing at a target);

i. a step of calculating the second area that corresponds to the chosen first area (interpreted as the graphic process that would result from a first unit looking from 66 to 76);

j. a step of judging whether an event has occurred between the chosen first object and the second object placed in the second area that corresponds to the first area (Figure 10 and 11 understood encompass avatar-target interaction);

k. a step of executing the event processing when it is judged that the event has occurred (figure 11); and

l. a step of forming game images on the basis of the results of the event processing (figure 11 updating the display).

Art Unit: 3714

8. Regarding at least claim 23, Aoshima teaches a three-dimensional game including multiple players as taught in the rejection of claim 1 above. As both players are capable of controlling their avatars (tank) speed in game the claimed proceeding speeds or scrolling speeds may be determined by both players in a mutually exclusive fashion. Alternatively as presented one common three-dimensional world might be separated along an axis or by three-dimensional object (i.e. the players tank juxtapose to the remaining components in the 3-d world) and would also be understood to meet the claimed language.

9. Regarding at least claim 24, 25 Aoshima teaches various means of altering viewpoints including the use of a viewpoint change button (Col 8:13-17) and the use of sub-displays (Fig 9 & Col 8:21-27) for reducing one game field and displaying the reduced field in the picture of the remaining game field. Further dependent on the defined boundary between the first and second fields discussed in the rejection of claim 23 above, the view point may shift responsive to the mere movement of the players avatar (tank) and hence cursor (crosshair) during the play of the game. The limitation of "controllable game objects" is met by any type of object control including computer controlled or opposing player controlled game objects.

10. Regarding at least claims 8 and 26, Aoshima teaches a game world in figure 3 including a bottom portion 66 and a top portions 76, 78. When player one is located on the top portion and player two is location on the bottom portion the game fields are

understood to conform to the claim cursor object forming means wherein the top level is one game field and the lower portion is the other game field.

11. Regarding at least claims 9 and 27, Aoshima teaches the display realization of the three-dimensional world in figure 5, including the display of the game fields contained therein. When considered along with figures 1 and 8, the area immediately behind the players avatar (tank) is understood to represent a side face of the cursor object as so claimed. Player information is displayed on this side as shown in figure 8.

12. Regarding claims 28, Aoshima teaches the displaying of area maps and radars (Col 8:20-27). The display of such a device must change the color of an area in order to be appreciably recognized by the player and hence provides a change in the color of the first area as viewed by the player.

13. Regarding at least claim 29, Aoshima teaches the determination of game events based on player actions shown in figure 11-13. In particular the claim language reads on a first tank shooting at a second and the determination by the game CPU to determine if a counter attack is warranted.

14. Regarding at least claim 10, Aoshima teaches the displaying and scaling of the game world dependent on the players position within the world. As the display scales

Art Unit: 3714

are set to reflect the distance between the player's avatar and the field they are scaled and drawn to visually reflect this distance (Figure 5 7 Col 7:62-8:02).

15. Regarding claim 30 in addition to the above stated, Aoshima teaches A game device comprising:

- m. a memory (29) for storing the application software;
- n. a CPU block having means for collecting operation signals from operating means operated by a player(16, 18), which executes the application software and thereby conducts the process to proceed the game in the three-dimensional virtual space (Figure 1))including at least the first and second game fields that are stacked in layers (Figure 3 wherein field.66 is parallel to fields 76 and 78),, and outputting drawing control information that forms game images;
- o. a video block for conducting drawing processing of the game images on the basis of the drawing control information and outputting the game images to displaying means (Figure 4), wherein said first and second game fields are divided in the first area and the second area that each display one unit of the objects, each of which is placed and moves in the first and second game fields; and
- p. wherein said application software includes a first game program that proceeds the game in the first game field and a second game program that proceeds the game in the second game field (Figure 2, 9 demonstrate diverse player locations in a multi tier field), wherein said CPU block comprises:

Art Unit: 3714

- i. means for controlling the position of the first object in accordance with the first game program, placing it in the relevant first area in the first game field, and thereby controlling the proceeding of the first game;
- ii. means for controlling the position of the second object in accordance with the second game program, placing it in the relevant second area in the second game field, and thereby controlling the proceeding of the second game (Figures 2,3,5,6 & Elm s12 Where in multiple fields where defined in the rejection of claim 22 above and the first and second objects may be two separate tanks);
- iii. means for displaying a cursor that points to one unit of the first area in the first game field on the basis of the operation signal, and for choosing the first object placed in the first area (Figures 1,2, and 5);
- iv. means for calculating the second area that corresponds to the chosen first area (Figures 3 & 5);
- v. means for judging whether an event has occurred between the chosen first object and the second object placed in the second area that corresponds to the first area (Figures 6-7);
- vi. means for executing the event processing when it is judged that the event has occurred (Figures 6-7); and
- vii. means for forming game images on the basis of the results of the event processing, and wherein all of said means are realized by the execution of the application software in the CPU block (Figure 4).

Art Unit: 3714

16. In regards to claims 7,22 and 30, although Aoshima teaches the use of cursor objects through the tank and cross hair elements as shown above, Aoshima fail to clearly teach the cursor object to be a three-dimensional object that extends over both of the first game field and the second game field.

17. In a similar environment, Tohyama teaches the use of image synthesizing scopes that being interpreted as game cursors (Abstract). Tohyama further teaches the cursor to be a three-dimensional object extending over a first game field and a second game field (Fig 9, Par 12 lines 53-55, 59-64).

18. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate Tohyama's teachings wherein the motivation is to provide a three-dimensional target identifying means that displays a target through a viewing window making it easier for the user to aim and shoot. The motivation comes from Tohyama Par 1 line 65-Par 2 line 2.

Response to Arguments

19. Applicant's arguments filed 5/17/07 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

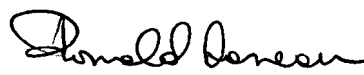
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Emmanuel Omotosho whose telephone number is (571) 272-3106. The examiner can normally be reached on m-f 10-6.

Art Unit: 3714

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

EO


RONALD LANEAU
PRIMARY EXAMINER

7/16/07